



Capitol Region Watershed District

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Approved May 8, 2013

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

CAC Members Present:

Janna Caywood, Steve Duerre,
Ted McCaslin, Michelle
Ulrich, David Arbeit,
Kathryn Swanson, Richard
Weil, Gwen Willems

Members absent with notice:

Jerome Wagner, Michael
Trojan, Bill Barton, Pat Byrne,
Michael MacDonald

Others Present:

Melissa Baker, CRWD Staff
Michelle Sylvander, CRWD Staff
Elizabeth Beckman, CRWD
Staff,
Mark Doneux, Administrator
Joseph Collins, President

Welcome, Announcements, and Updates

Mr. McCaslin opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. with a request for announcements.

Ms. Caywood made an announcement that the Como Lake Neighborhood has been nominated for sustainable water quality; an official announcement will take place on April 17th.

Mr. McCaslin made an announcement that this will be his last meeting as a resident with the Citizen Advisory Committee. He is moving and will no longer be in the Capitol Region Watershed District. Mr. McCaslin expressed an interest in staying with the committee as a technical advisor with non-voting status.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. McCaslin asked for any additions or changes to the Agenda.

Mr. Weil requested that Item V) before Action Item A) include appointing Mr. McCaslin as a non-voting member of the CAC.

CAC 13-007 Motion: *To approve the CAC April 10, 2013 agenda as amended.*

Arbeit/Duerre

Unanimously approved

Approval of the March 13, 2013 CAC Minutes, Ms. Willems noted that there were just a couple minor changes.

CAC 13-008 Motion: *To approve the CAC March 13, 2013 CAC Minutes as amended.*

Duerre/Caywood

Unanimously approved

Items for Review and Comment Requested by the Board of Managers

Additional item:

Accepting the Resignation of Mr. McCaslin and recommend the approval of Mr. McCaslin as a non-resident, non-voting member of the CAC, as provided in the CAC by-laws.

CAC 13-009 Motion: *To accept the resignation of Mr. McCaslin and recommend Mr. McCaslin as a non-resident, non-voting member of the CAC.*

Arbeit/Duerre

A) Election of Offices

Mr. McCaslin asked for nomination for two co-chairs positions and secretary. According to the by-laws each position is a 1 year appointment with an election every April. Ms. Caywood, made the motion to nominate Ms. Ulich as the Secretary, Ms. Willems as the Co-Chair and Mr. Arbeit as the Co-Chair.

CAC 13-010 Motion: *To appoint Ms. Ulich as the Secretary, Ms. Willems as the Co-Chair and Mr. Arbeit as the Co-Chair.*

Duerre/Arbeit

The meeting was turned over to Co-Chair, Mr. Arbeit.

B) 2012 Stewardship Grant Program Update, Melissa Baker

Ms. Baker provided a summary of CRWD's Stewardship Grant Program activities in 2012. The goals of the program are to improve water quality, increase ground water recharge, protect plants and wildlife habitat, and provide public education and promote stormwater awareness. The grant program provides funding resources to constituents in the watershed to help manage stormwater runoff. In 2012, 31 grant projects, including 53 BMP structures were approved, with a total of \$34,400 in grant funds awarded. Rain gardens were the most common type of BMP project. To date, approximately \$17,000 of approved grant funds have been reimbursed. Ms. Baker shared pictures from projects completed in 2012, including a residential cistern project and rain garden projects at First Covenant Church and College Prep Academy. The Committee thanked Ms. Baker for her presentation.

C) CCLRT Interpretive Signage, Elizabeth Beckman

Ms. Beckman review, in the summer of 2012, CRWD Administrator executed a consultant services agreement with Barr Engineering to design interpretive signage for the four types of CCLRT green infrastructure practices: 1) integrated tree trench system in the boulevards of University Avenue; 2) stormwater planters in adjacent street boulevards; 3) rain gardens in adjacent street boulevards; and 4) infiltration trenches beneath adjacent streets.

Ms. Beckman said, last fall, CRWD staff selected a design that complements CRWD's new logo colors. Barr Engineering has designed four draft signs, which have undergone several iterations over the past few months based on CRWD's staff comments. CRWD staff has met with City of Saint Paul staff to receive comments on the sign's design and layout. Discussions with City of Saint Paul staff related to placement of the signs and required permitting is pending.

Ms. Beckman passed around draft samples of the signage and shared some of the feedback. Some of the titles included: Putting Trees on the Map, Made in the Shade, & Branching Out. Mr. Weil suggested "Going Green on the Green Line". Mr. Duerre suggested "Rooting out Pollution". Additional focus groups will be reviewing the signage as well for additional creative feedback.

Staff and Program Updates

A) Burns Avenue Rain Garden Retrofit Project

Administrator Doneux, reviewed the 2012 approval of a Special Grant to the Community Design Center (CDC) for a boulevard rain garden retrofit project. EOR completed designs for the construction of eight curb-cut rain gardens in the Burns Avenue neighborhood. This project includes excavation, soil replacement, mulch, and curb-cut work. Plants will be provided by CRWD and planted by the homeowners. This project is currently under budget. The deadline for construction completion is May 10th. CRWD is working with the CDC to select appropriate planting templates for each property. The CDC is coordinating a neighborhood planting day on May 18th with a backup date of May 21st.

B) City of Falcon Heights 2013 Street Improvements Update

Administrator Doneux, gave an update on the City of Falcon Heights street reconstruction planned for 2013. The City has authorized their 2013 street reconstruction project to include the following: mill and overlay of 4.8 acres of City streets, drainage areas to the reconstructed City streets are approximately 60 acres, the streets drain to Curtiss Pond, Gottfried's Pit, and Como Lake. This project represents an excellent opportunity to implement significant water quantity and quality practices in a portion of the District that will not see construction work for many decades after this project is completed.

C) Curtiss Pond Improvements Update

Administrator Doneux, reviewed flooding issues at the Curtiss Field Pond. The area regularly floods during moderate rainfall which limits the use of the park, the parks infrastructure and presents a safety concern for the City. The City has requested the Districts assistance in determining the causes of the problems and identifying possible solutions. Houston Engineering was hired to complete a draft of the Curtiss Pond Improvement Project, Feasibility Study. The purpose of the study was to determine alternatives for improving Curtiss Pond as an infiltration basin and manage the flooding.

This pond is the single largest drainage basin in the area, which is mainly impacted by Snelling Avenue. The Falcon Heights Street improvements tie into the Curtiss Pond. Addition information is still needed in order to move forward, the soil borings are inconclusive. This project will be postponed until 2014. Because a large portion of the runoff is from Snelling Avenue, MN DOT will need to be contacted and involved in this project.

Board of Managers and CAC Observer Update

Mike MacDonald was unable to report on the March 20, 2013 Board Meeting.

Janna Caywood was unable to attend the April 3, 2013 Board Meeting.

President Collins gave an update on the April 3, 2013 meeting. The bulk of the meeting was spent on the discussion of the Bond sale for \$3,000,000.00. By reviewing future projects like Villa Park and Curtis Pond the board felt this was a very conservative decision at the interest rate available.

Discussion –

A) New & Old Issues

No new business.

B) Identify CAC Observer for April 17th Board of Managers Meeting

Mr. Weil will attend the April 17th Board of Managers Meeting as an Observer.

“Our mission is to protect, manage, and improve the water resources of the Capitol Region Watershed District.”

C) Identify CAC Observer for May 1st Board of Managers Meeting

Ms. Willems will attend the May 1st Board of Managers Meeting as an Observer

D) 2013 Event Planning and Calendar

Ms. Beckman, stated that on Saturday April 13th Ms. Caywood & Mr. Arbeit will be attending the St. Paul Parks Clean Up. . Help is needed at several additional events; a sign up was passed around.

- Saturday, April 20th, the Mother Earth Fest
- Saturday, April 27th, City Academy Green Fair
- Saturday, May 18th, Hewitt-Tatum help needed with 30 boulevard rain gardens
- Tuesday, May 21st City of St. Paul Public Works Open House
- Saturday, June 1st Landscape Revival – native plant sale
- Saturday, June 8th, Prior Goodrich RSVP Planting, help needed with 47 boulevard rain gardens

New display signs have arrived that are wind and rain resistant.

Administrator Doneux commented that the list will continue to change with additional events being added to the list. Contact Ms. VanPatten to have your name added to one of the community events on the 2013 Events Calendar.

E) May 8, 2013 CAC Agenda Overview

Administrator Doneux commented on a new focus group for May 8th. Ms. Beckman briefly shared the details of new portable education displays for Capitol Region. The displays will include hands on leavers & wheels. The displays will help explain how storm water flows and how your street is connected to a stream. Karen Deyoung will lead the May 8th focus group discussion, lasting 45 minutes to 1 hour. The purpose of the focus group is to study the text & messaging of the educational materials. There will be a total of three focus groups. The three groups will include: informed, uninformed and 12 year olds. The May 8th meeting will be the informed focus group.

Adjourn –

CAC 13-009 Motion: *Adjourn the April 10, 2013 CAC Meeting*

Duerre/Caywood

Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sylvander

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